



**Iowa Council for Early ACCESS
Minutes
January 18, 2008**

Members Present: Kyla Alba, Jeff Anderson (for ~~Mary Nelson~~), Daryl Beall, Scott Beall, Nancy Bobo, Jane Borst, Mary Jane Brotherson, Angela Burke Boston, LaMark Combs, Gina Greene, Kelly Hancock, Ron Koch, Jan Mackey, Troy McCarthy, Barb Merrill, Carolyn Nelson, LauraBelle Sherman-Proehl, Debra Sixta, Carrie Sodders, David Van Horn, Shanell Wagler

Deleted: Mary Stevens

Excused: Andrew Hall, Pablo Quintanilla, Maureen Schletzbaum, Mary Stevens, Brian Wilkes

Staff: Julie Curry, Barb Khal, Kelly Schulte, Lisa Sharp, Susan White (Interim Secretary)

Guests: Jody Kealey, Lisa Naig, Cindy Weigel, Annie Woods

Call to Order:

Troy called the meeting to order and introductions of Council members took place. Quorum is established.

Approval of November Minutes:

Troy entertained a motion for approval of the November 16, 2007, minutes. Shanell Wagler and Kelly Hancock motioned for approval. Minutes of the November 16, 2007, Iowa Council for Early ACCESS meeting was approved with corrections.

Executive Committee Update/Troy McCarthy:

~~Sonni~~ Vierling gave an overview of the initiative, 1st Five Healthy Mental Development. She will be a guest at the next meeting to share this information.

Deleted: u

The Committee reviewed the budget and it will be posted for public comment 60 days prior to submission.

The Committee also discussed the new Central Point of Contact and Central Directory information. The contract was awarded to Visiting Nurse Services (VNS) of Polk County. A continuation discussion was held from the previous Council meeting of November 16, 2007, to go over the Priority Selection comments.

Lead Agency Update/Memorandum of Agreement/LauraBelle Sherman-Proehl

- The Memorandum of Agreement (MOA) with the Signatory Agencies group is working hard to finalize the agreement. A draft will be ready in February to make

comments and send to legal counsel. The MOA will be finalized in March and prepared for submission due in May.

- There has been a federal change of rules regarding Medicaid. Dann Stevens from the Bureau of Student Family Support Services, Department of Education, talked about these changes. Rules are requiring one target manager, which impacts Early ACCESS services and Service Coordinators. This will also affect the billing process.
- There will be one Part B and C Procedure Manual (birth to 21). This Manual will be used by each of the Area Education Agencies.
- Annual Performance Report/State Performance Plan: The Annual Performance Report and State Performance Plan is due to the Office of Special Education Programs (OSEP) on Friday, February 1, 2008.
- The Part C budget for Early ACCESS infrastructure system which outlines the use of funds in the state will be posted in February. OSEP has cut the funds for Part C services. There is a 60-day public comment.
- The Statewide Voluntary Preschool Program for Four-Year-Olds is beginning their district visits. The objectives for their visits are to review implementation of basic program assurances, to review collaboration efforts among district and community partners, to share the district's preschool program profile information and to obtain feedback from program personnel regarding rewards and challenges in the implementation of the Four-Year-Old Preschool Program.

APR/C-3 Early Child Outcomes/Dee Gethmann:

Dee Gethmann shared data about the Early Childhood Outcomes indicator from the Department of Education's Annual Progress Report that will be filed with OSEP on February 1, 2008. The data indicate how children are doing after receiving Early ACCESS, Part C services.

Central Point of Contact and Directory/Kelly Schulte and Annie Wood:

The new Central Point of Contact and Directory Services contract was awarded to Visiting Nurse Services of Polk County. Beginning February 1, 2008, Visiting Nurse Services of Polk County will assume responsibility of the central point of contact and directory for Early ACCESS. (formally operated by Iowa COMPASS).

This project has been named Early ACCESS Iowa. These services address specialized child and family needs through a user friendly system that includes a Website, toll-free telephone service and a single point of contact to provide facilitation of resources and referrals.

The new toll-free number is 1-888-IAKIDS1 (1-888-425-4371). Lines are open from 8:00am-7:00pm. Parents that call after hours are able to leave a message. The website will provide links for parents who need guidance.

The website is www.EarlyACCESSIowa.org. The Department of Education owns the right to the toll-free number and the website address now. So, if the contract is awarded to another service in the future, the toll free number and website will stay the same. Any questions concerning the central point of contact may be directed to:

Annie Wood, MA
Outreach Manager
Visiting Nurses Services
1111 9th Street-Suite 320
Des Moines, IA 50314
515-559-9951
515-288-0437 (fax)
anniew@vnsdm.org
www.vnsdm.org

Nutrition Services/Jody Kealey and Gina Greene:

Information was presented by Jody Kealey about Nutrition Services that are available through Child Health Specialty Clinics due to new state funds. It was reported that 79-90% of children in Early Intervention programs have one or more nutrition problems. There is an Early ACCESS Nutrition Assessment Process now in place. The Service Coordinator can now have families complete the Parent Nutrition/Feeding Questionnaire (PEACH). This gives a score that can help to decide what level of intervention the child needs. Nutrition assessment should be a part of the health assessment and be documented on My Child's Development page in the Initial Individualized Family Service Plan (IFSP).

APR/C-8 Transition/Penny Milburn:

Penny Milburn shared the data for Indicator C-8 that covers the legal requirements and accountability for Part C Transition. There should be a Transition planning meeting at least 90 days before the child's third birthday. There is a web-based training for Service Coordinators that covers all the requirements of Transition. This indicator will be reported to OSEP in the Department of Education's Annual Performance Report on February 1, 2008.

ICEA Committees/Troy McCarthy:

- Public Policy Committee is working with the Governor's Report Committee and the Parent Leadership Committee.
- Governor's Report: Is getting close to finish.
- By Laws: No comment.
- Nominating: No comment.
- Membership: Good membership applications are coming in and the Council will make a selection from these applications.

Sharing/Council:

- Kelly Schulte mentioned as a reminder that Early Childhood is being represented for Day on the Hill on Friday, February 14, 2008.
- Gina Greene gave an update on the Tyler DVD. The DVD continues to spread nation wide, as over 4,000 copies have been distributed. They are going to Boston in April to receive National recognition and be given a National Council Special Education Award.

- Troy McCarthy shared with the Council that the National Down Syndrome Campaign will have four commercials featuring young adults with Down Syndrome telling their story.
- Kyla Alba informed the Council that the PEC conference topic of discussion on February 18 and 19, 2008 will be Part B Transition.
- Barb Merrill shared information about the Iowa AEYC Spring Leadership Training taking place on Sat., April 5 at the Foxboro Conference Center. For more information or to register contact Rhonda@iwoaaeyc.org or 515-331-800, ext. 12.

Meeting Adjournment/Troy McCarthy:

Troy motioned for the meeting to be adjourned and Council so moved.

Upcoming Council Meeting:

Friday, March 21, 2008 at Stoney Creek Inn